(c) to (e) The matter was brought to the knowledge of Government on May 30, 1997 by one of the relatives of the missing crew members. Our Missions/ Post in Dubai, Baghdad and Kuwait have been alerted and asked to contact the concerned authorities. Consulate General of India, Dubai sent an official to the shipping company's office, which consisted of a small room and the person present there gave an unsatisfactory reply about the whereabouts of the ship. The mobile telephone number of the owner of the ship went continuously unanswered and the company official in Dubai is unable to provide any information about the ship. CGI, Dubai, in the absence of any evidence of ship wreck in the areas where the ship sailed, and information made available by local authorities, has premised that the ship might have been detained for violating the UN embargo against Iraq. Thereafter, our Mission in Bahrain has been asked to contact the Multinational Interception Force (MIF) based in Bahrain to trace the whereabouts of the ship and its Indian crew members. In addition, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York and Embassy of India, Riyadh are enquiring into the matter. The efforts through our Missions/ Posts to locate the ship's crew is continuing.

Prime Minister's Discussions with the President of Peru

959. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the the Prime Minister had held discussions with the President of Peru, Mr. Alberto Fujimori at Delhi on 26th May, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions centred around bilateral, political, economic and cultural relations. Discussions were also held on regional issues of common interest as also multilateral issues which included the menance of Terrorism, UN reforms, World Trade Organisation, G-15, Non-Aligned Movement, Environment, Disarmament, and Humand Rights.

Six official agreements were also signed during the visit. These pertain to Agriculture, Antarctica, cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of Peru and Foreign Service Institute of India, Regular Foreign Office Consultations, Technical Cooperation and Tourism. Two business agreements were also signed during the visit. The first set up a joint Business Council (JBC) between FICCI and the Confederation of Peruvian Business and Industry (CONFIEP). The second was a protocol for cooperation between the Peruvian Chamber of Software (CPS) and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) of India.

AIDS-Afflictcd Children in the Country

960. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that children in the country are afflicted by AIDS;

(b) if so, the number of children between the age group of 1—12 years afflicted by AIDS;

(c) whether Government have contemplated steps to save the children from AIDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 124 childern between the age group 0—12 years have been affected by AIDS, as reported to NACO.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government have taken the following steps;

(i) Giving Safe and HIV free blood to all Thalassemic and hemofilic Children which is going on satisfactorily.

(ii) A pilot project is being contemplated by Government to give gidovuline (AZT) to all pregnant mothers having HIV infection which is an approved mode of treatment.

Increase in Child Mortality Rate

961. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing child mortality rate in the country;

(b) if so, the state-wise position as on date; and

(c) the datails of steps taken by Government to reduce the child mortality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information available through Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India, the Child Mortality Rate (0—4 years) at the national level is showing a declining trend. The latest estimates of Child Mortality Rete (0—4) years for India and major States for 1994 are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) To bring down child mortality, Immunization;? Control of diarrnoeat diseases and acute respiratory infections; essential newborn care; and prophylaxis against Iron and vitamin A deficiencies are being implemented as part of the Child Survival and safe Motherhood Programme. These interventions will continue to be implemented under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Estimates of Child Mortality Rate (0—4 Years) for India and major States, 1994.

(Source: Sample Registration System, Registrar Genera] of India)

India and Major States	Child Mortality Rate
India*	23.9
Andhra Pradesh	17.0
Assam	24.7
Bihar	24.9
Gujarat	22.2
Haryana	22.3
Himachal Pradesh	16.0
Karnataka	18.6
Kerala	3.4
Madhya Pradesh	34.8
Maharashtra	14.4
Orissa	31.6
Punjab	15.7
Rajasthan	27.4
Tamil Nadu	13.4
Uttar Pradesh	33.0
West Bengal	19.8

* Excludes Jammu & Kashmir and Mizoram

Action Plan for AIDS control in the North-Eastern States

962. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sharp increase in AIDS cases in certain States, particularly in the Northeastern parts of the country; if so, the number of AIDS cases detected/reported during the last three years, from the North-eastern States, State-wise and yearwise;

(b) whether Governments of Northeastern States have requested the Central Government for a helping hand to arrest